

Govt orders teachers to register afresh

By David Lumu

The education minister has ordered for fresh registration of teachers in government schools and institutions, citing the need to execute proper planning and weed out ghosts.

According to a circular issued by Alex Kakooza, the permanent secretary, the school heads have been given a deadline of July 14, to submit the lists of all teachers to the chief administrative officers (CAOs) in their respective districts.

"The education ministry has embarked on a comprehensive programme of collection of data on its human resources both in secondary schools and other post primary institutions. The exercise is to inform a number of strategic interventions aimed at improving service delivery as well as the terms and conditions of service for both teaching and non-teaching personnel in the sector," Kakooza said in

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the press release published yesterday.

Kakooza explained that headteachers and principals of polytechnics and farm institutions are required to submit details of staff recruited by the Education Service Commission and deployed to their respective schools/institutions, in both hard and soft copy. The lists, he added, shall be endorsed by the CAOs before they are submitted to the ministry registry.

"Non-compliance with the contents of this press release shall attract stern disciplinary action," Kakooza said.

The requirements include

the name of the teacher, status of employment (probation or permanent), registration number, date of posting and the subjects that such a teacher teaches.

Patrick Muyinda, the spokesperson of the ministry, said the required data will be entered into the human resource systems to enable efficient tracking of teachers in the country, especially those on government payroll.

"We want to be efficient, deliver better services to the population and improve the quality of education. Once the teachers are known, deployment is efficient and

retirement tracking is clear. We also want to remove delays in the recruitment exercise of teachers," he said.

The problem of ghost teachers on the payroll rocked the country in 2014, with Police estimating that the country lost over sh75b every month to the ghost-teacher scam. The Auditor General, John Muwanga, also found out in his report of the same year that on average every district had over 200 ghost teachers on the payroll.

To ensure that the exercise of registering teachers is executed properly, *New Vision* has learnt that the ministry has summoned all district education officers for a meeting today at Jinja Senior Secondary School, to devise mechanisms of conducting a water-tight registration process.

According to the Kabarole district CAO, Dunstan Balaba, the exercise will help streamline the process of recruitment, retirement and wage payment.